

### **REMARKS**

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested. No amendments have been made, but a listing of the claims is included nonetheless for the convenience of the Examiner. Claims 65-75 remain pending.

#### ***Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103***

Claims 65-75 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Background section of the application ("Application Background") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,996,666 to Duluk, Jr. ("Duluk Jr.").

In a January 31, 2006 telephone interview with the Examiner, Applicant's attorneys Charles Shemwell and Ron Shea pointed out that, contrary to the suggestion in the Office Action (page 3, second full paragraph), the Application Background does not disclose priority numbers. The examiner agreed that priority numbers are not disclosed in the Application Background, with the proviso that he would like to review the Application Background section further.

In view of the foregoing, applicant submits that, even if Duluk Jr. could be combined with the Application Background, the combination would still fail to meet all the limitations of claims 65-75 and therefore would not have rendered claims 65-75 obvious.

#### **Statement of Substance of Examiner Interview**

As discussed above, Applicant's attorneys Charles Shemwell and Ron Shea interviewed the Examiner on January 31, 2006 and pointed out that the Application Background does not disclose priority numbers. The Examiner provisionally agreed.

#### ***Conclusion***

Applicant submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. If a telephone interview would be helpful in any way, the examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

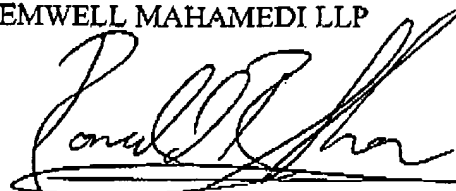
Authorization is hereby given to charge deposit account 50-1914 for any fee deficiency associated with this Response.

Respectfully submitted

SHEMWELL MAHAMED I LLP

Dated: 31 January 2006

By:



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